

# Yemen Resilience Programme



United Nations Development Programme

Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

## YEMEN RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

### *A political, humanitarian and development crisis*

Yemen is facing an unprecedented political, humanitarian and development crisis. Yemen's transition that started in 2011 with the support of the international community tragically unraveled after the conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference in January 2014 and spiraled into a full blown war by March 2015 with little prospect of an immediate peaceful political solution.

The complexity of the conflict between warring factions and shifting alliances has exacerbated social tensions and hostilities around the country. The political instability is fueled by conflict and widespread insecurity, large-scale displacement, internal and international population movements, civil strife, endemic poverty and a breakdown of social and public services.

Yemen has long been a Least Developed Country and the poorest in the Arab region. Before the conflict, more than half of the population were already below the poverty line and eight million people were receiving humanitarian assistance. Now it is estimated that 18.8 million people – 68 percent of the population – are in need of assistance. With civilian casualties rising, Yemeni citizens are suffering from multiple and entrenched hardships.

Investments and development gains from the past are being lost. With the crisis, economic activities have ground to a near standstill and are negatively impacted by a shortage of fuel, food and basic commodities due to the blockage on imports. The massive destruction of socio-economic infrastructure and the impact of the escalating conflict on lives and livelihoods will have grave consequences for longer-term development.

The remarkable resilience of the Yemeni population that endured decades of underdevelopment is now tested to its limits and will continue to deteriorate if left unaddressed. People, communities, public and private institutions need support to cope and build resilience towards peace and recovery. Restoring and strengthening resilience in families, communities and institutions from the start is urgent and as essential as political dialogue and humanitarian relief.



## PROGRAMME STRATEGY

UNDP's strategy for Yemen is to build resilience of the vulnerable population by preserving and/or restoring service delivery and reviving livelihoods. It will also support the peace process and the implementation of an eventual peace agreement. By promoting a "building back better" approach, as well as positive change in the conflict, power, and gender dynamics and relationships, the programme lays the foundations for future recovery and state-building efforts.

## KEY OBJECTIVES

The programme aims at strengthening people's resilience with two strategic objectives:

1. To increase people's economic self-reliance, revive critical livelihoods; and ensure that vulnerable groups are protected through emergency safety nets;
2. To support the peace process and to prepare for an eventual implementation of a peace agreement whilst contributing to rebuilding trust and social cohesion through stabilization interventions, including the preservation and/or restoration of capacities for priority public service delivery.

The implementation of the programme is expected to

For more information: [www.undp.org/yemencrisis](http://www.undp.org/yemencrisis)  
United Nations Development Programme

January  
2016

immediately impact and have visible results on people's lives, directly reducing mortality, suffering and hardship in the midst of conflict, as well as paving the way for recovery and sustainable development pathways. The latter is focused on implementation of the plan of action adopted at the World Humanitarian Summit which calls for closer cooperation between humanitarian and development actors. UNDP seeks to establish innovative partnerships, such as the new partnership with the World Bank, to mobilize additional resources for Yemen.

**Outcome 1. People's economic self-reliance is increased and the local economy is revitalized**

UNDP protects vulnerable groups through increasing their access to social safety nets and restore disrupted livelihoods critical to provide income and dignity for affected host and displaced families in partnership with the Social Fund for Development and Public Works Programme. To support the private sector withstand the impact of crisis and continue the delivery of goods, commodities and services for the population, UNDP works with business associations, financial service providers, Business Support Centers and local authorities to help restore business productivity by working across economic clusters, capitalizing on the geographic concentration of companies, organizations, and institutions with a focus on socially significant businesses.



**Outcome 2. People's safety and security is improved and access to public services is increased**

UNDP works closely with the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to support the peace process. Its engagement towards the stabilization of key locations creates favourable conditions for the implementation of an eventual peace agreement.



Expected results:

- Capacity of public authorities in the target Governorates is strengthened for delivery of basic services
- Stabilization activities in permissible environments



UNDP's support to Mine Action – risk assessments, increased local capacity for mine and unexploded ordnances (UXOs) clearance and victim assistance - reduces further loss of life.

Expected results:

- Crisis affected households benefit from temporary income through labor intensive activities
- Local economic activities are revitalized through enterprise recovery, workforce development, and support to the private sector
- Communities' self-reliance is increased through access to renewable energy and better natural resource management
- Mine and UXO contamination is mapped and impact assessed using primary and secondary sources
- Mines and UXO are cleared in identified priority areas
- The awareness of the threat posed by mines and UXO is increased in affected communities

UNDP will pilot community policing initiatives that include participatory dialogue sessions and trainings to identify citizen security concerns and solutions in line with international human rights standards. Police and citizens will be encouraged to work together towards addressing priority security challenges at the community level, with guidance on roles and responsibilities, training on security mitigation measures, and mediation skills.

Expected results:

- Capacity of police and justice institutions is mapped and redeployment plan developed for major urban centers
- People-centered community security plans are developed, with crime and violence reduced at the community level
- Police and citizens work together towards addressing priority security challenges at the community level

UNDP will help improve the coordination, accessibility and capacity of local formal and informal justice mechanisms to respond to an increasing demand for protection, redress and legal services. UNDP will raise awareness on human rights and document human rights violations to contribute towards reconciliation and other community settlement processes.

Expected results:

- Victims of conflict and violence find appropriate redress, legal recourse and psychosocial support at community level
- Non-judicial institutions' capacities are strengthened to resolve disputes and address human rights violations

In key locations, UNDP will also provide an integrated solution package to the growing returnee displaced population at risk, contributing to stabilisation and the peace process.

## APPROACH

The Programme is implemented over 24 months (2016-2017) and is designed to provide the foundation for long-term peace, development and for a new social compact to emerge. Resilience is to be built from the bottom up using local systems, capacities and institutions as much as possible. In the current context, increasing local resilience at community level is deemed the most effective way of limiting the continuous degradation of people's living conditions and long-term reliance on humanitarian assistance.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The unpredictable and highly volatile context in Yemen makes any programmatic intervention subject to risk. UNDP's programme to build resilience in Yemen must be flexible, responsive, conflict-sensitive and risk-based, with the capacity to adapt programming quickly.

Programme management arrangements are designed to ensure a coherent and speedy delivery through a programme approach. UNDP will mitigate risks through ongoing analysis of the situation and regularly assess programme feasibility to determine scaling down, maintaining or scaling up implementation into new geographic areas.

The backbone of implementation is UNDP's presence in Sana'a, Aden, and Amman (back office), for programme coordination, oversight, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. UNDP is also operational in a number of field locations through its various active projects and partners, with a capacity to respond across 21 governorates.

A third party monitoring system composed of private sector, NGOs and UNDP experts will undertake quality assurance functions where access is limited or warranted by risk mitigation recommendations. To minimize fiduciary risk, qualified accounting firms will conduct spot-checks and review financial transactions in line with approved work plans.

## BENEFICIARIES

UNDP will target its support to the most vulnerable population. Important considerations include readiness of communities and local institutions for resilience and peace building, acceptance of local powers and political actors for indiscriminate support to the most vulnerable – particularly women and girls - and respect for human rights, security and access to target communities.



## PARTNERSHIPS

UNDP is working with Yemeni authorities, civil society, and the private sector in the implementation of the Programme. UNDP is collaborating with UN agencies operational in Yemen and will pursue synergetic interventions across humanitarian and development areas. UNDP will also continue to develop and expand strong partnerships with donor governments and international partners in support of the Yemeni people.



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

## CONTACT

Auke Lootsma | Country Director UNDP Yemen

[auke.lootsma@undp.org](mailto:auke.lootsma@undp.org)

[undp.org/YemenCrisis](http://undp.org/YemenCrisis) | @UNDPYemen